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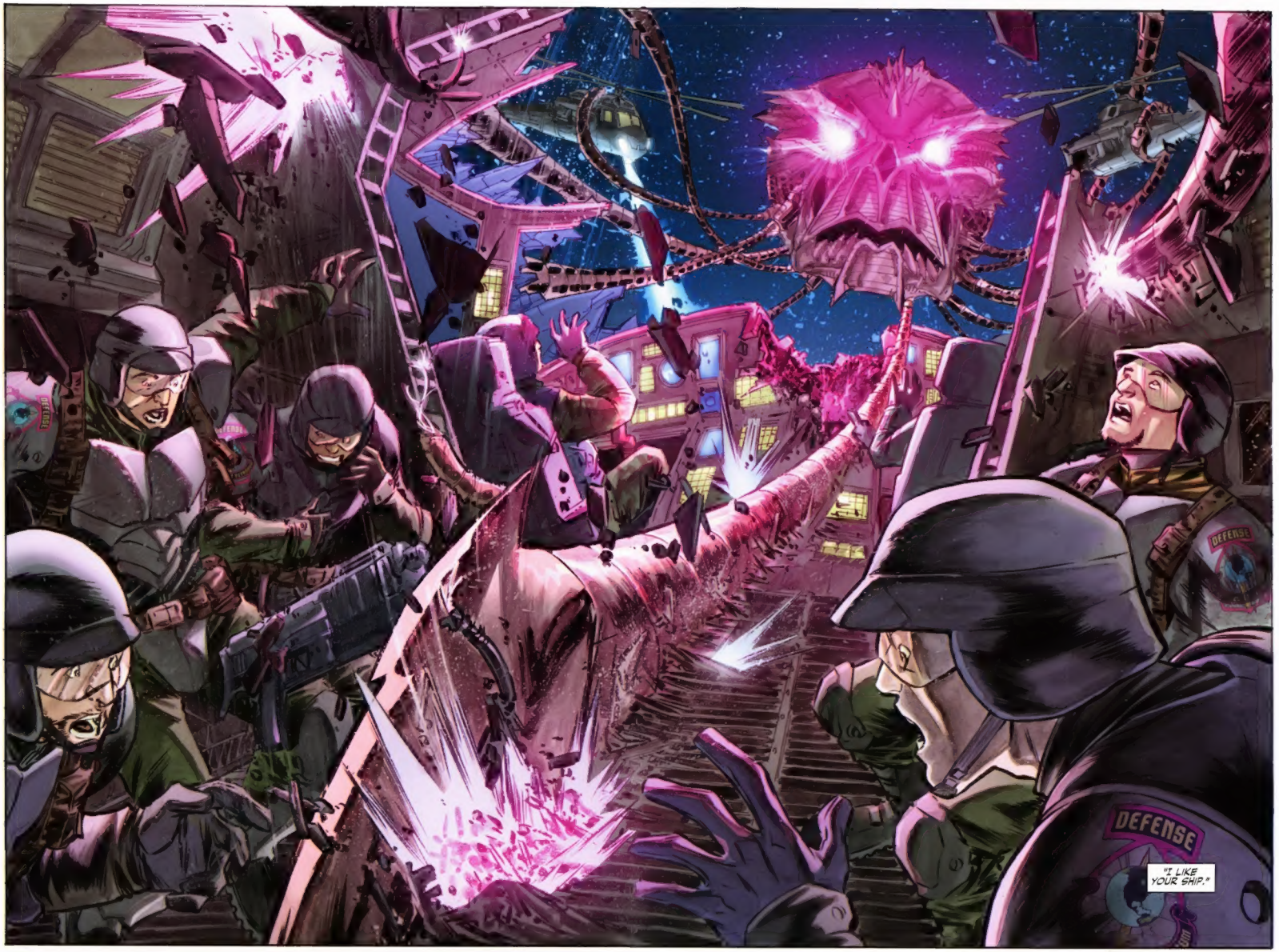
WEST VIRGINIA.
WOOP WOOP WOOP WOOP WOOP WOO
HAS ANYONE REACHED GENERAL LANE YET?
AFFIRMATIVE. HE'S EN ROUTE BACK FROM MARKOVIA, AND HE'S GIVEN THE ORDER TO USE LETHAL FORCE ON BRAINIAC IF NECESSARY--
--BUT HE WANTS LEX LUTHOR ALIVE.
HOW THE HELL DID LUTHOR GET OUT OF HIS CELL?
LUTHOR WASN'T IN HIS CELL. HE WAS BEING TRANSFERRED TO PROJECT: ALIEN FARM.
HE WAS.
BUT UNFORTUNATELY FOR HIS NIGHT CREW, BRAINIAC WOKE UP IN THE MIDDLE OF A DOWNLOAD. AND WHILE BRAINIAC TURNED THEIR BRAINS INTO JELLY, LUTHOR USED A FLATHEAD SCREWDRIVER ON HIS SECURITY DETAIL. THEN THEY BOTH HEADED TO HANGAR SEVEN.
AND NO ONE WAS WATCHING HIM?
THERE WAS A MOMENTARY DISRUPTION IN SURVEILLANCE. WE THINK BRAINIAC TRIGGERED IT.
BRAINIAC IS SUPPOSED TO BE COMATOSE.
BUT TOGETHER? WHY THE HELL WOULD LEX LUTHOR AND BRAINIAC WORK TOGETHER?
KIK KIK KOK


DEFENSE
"I LIKE YOUR SHIP."

AND ITS DECOR.

DURING MY CHARMING STAY IN GENERAL LANE'S COMPOUND, HE INSISTED I STUDY YOU AND THE KNOWLEDGE YOU HELD ON THE PLANET KRYPTON. I NEVER HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO GAZE INSIDE THIS MAGNIFICENT CRAFT.
YOU'VE COLLECTED HUNDREDS OF ALIEN CIVILIZATIONS.
YOU'VE ABSORBED MORE INFORMATION THAN ANY BEING IN THE UNIVERSE.
YOU'VE MADE YOURSELF INTO A GOD OF KNOWLEDGE.

GODS DO NOT EXIST, LEX LUTHOR.

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ASK THE PEOPLE OF EARTH IF THEY BELIEVE THAT.
THE PEOPLE OF EARTH CONTAIN NO USEFUL KNOWLEDGE. KAL-EL'S ADOPTED HOMEWORLD IS PRIMITIVE.
AND YET, IT'S THE ONE WORLD THAT ESCAPED BECOMING A PART OF YOUR COLLECTION.
ALL BECAUSE OF THE BEING THEY LOOK UP TO AS THEIR GOD.
SUPERMAN.
YOU SEE, SUPERMAN CONTINUES TO HOLD HUMANITY BACK FROM REACHING THE HEIGHTS THESE OTHER WORLDS HAVE REACHED.
I COULD TAKE THEM THERE.
BUT WITH NEW KRYPTON HIDING BEHIND OUR SUN, SUPERMAN STANDS IN MY WAY OF CURING EARTH OF DISEASE, FAMINE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER.
KAL-EL WILL DIE.
KANDOR WILL RETURN TO ME.
AND FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE IN EXPEDITING THIS, YOU SHALL INHERIT EARTH, LEX LUTHOR.
AND THAT.

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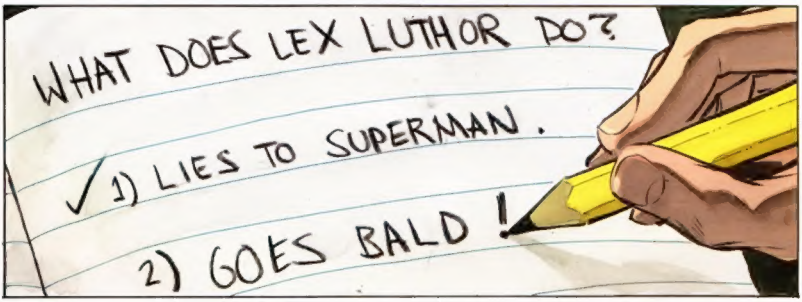
PROJECT: ALIEN FARM.
GENERAL LANE HAD ME CREATE A GREAT MANY *THINGS* FOR HIS WAR AGAINST THE KRYPTONIANS, BUT *THIS* ONE...
...THIS ONE IS *PERSONAL*.
938013

THIS ONE IS *FAMILY*.


WHAT DOES LEX LUTHOR DO?
✓1) LIES TO SUPERMAN.
2) GOES BALD!

I THINK IT'S GETTING THINNER.
YOU SAY THAT EVERY TIME YOU LOOK IN THAT MIRROR.
THAT'S BECAUSE EVERY TIME IT IS. YOU CAN'T SEE IT, MA. YOU DON'T HAVE MICROSCOPIC VISION.
NEITHER DO YOU.
WELL, NO...

WHAT DID SUPERMAN DO?

- ✓1) LIVED WITH THE KENTS.
- ✓2) WENT TO SMALLVILLE HIGH.
- ✓3) JOINED A TEAM OF SUPER-HEROES.
- ✓4) HELPED ANYONE WHO NEEDED IT.
- 5) DEVELOPED MICROSCOPIC VISION?

"...NOT YET."

I LOOK OKAY?
KRYPTO SAYS YOU LOOK VERY HANDSOME.
AFF!
MAYBE I SHOULDN'T WEAR THE "S" SHIRT.
I DON'T THINK I EVER SAW CLARK SET SO WORKED UP OVER A GIRL. NOT AT YOUR AGE ANYWAY.
YOU DIDN'T?

WHAT DOES LEX LUTHOR DO?

- ✓1) LIES TO SUPERMAN.
- 2) GOES BALD!
- 3) GETS NERVOUS AROUND GIRLS???

DC Comics Proudly Presents
SUPERBOY
THE BOY OF STEEL
PART TWO
HI.
CLONED USING THE KRYPTONIAN D.N.A. OF SUPERMAN AND THE HUMAN D.N.A. OF LEX LUTHOR, CADMUS BOY FIGHTS FOR TRUTH, JUSTICE AND THE AMERICAN WAY AS...
SUPERBOY
Wonder Girl
GEOFF JOHNS
FRANCIS MANAPUL
BRIAN BUCCELLATO
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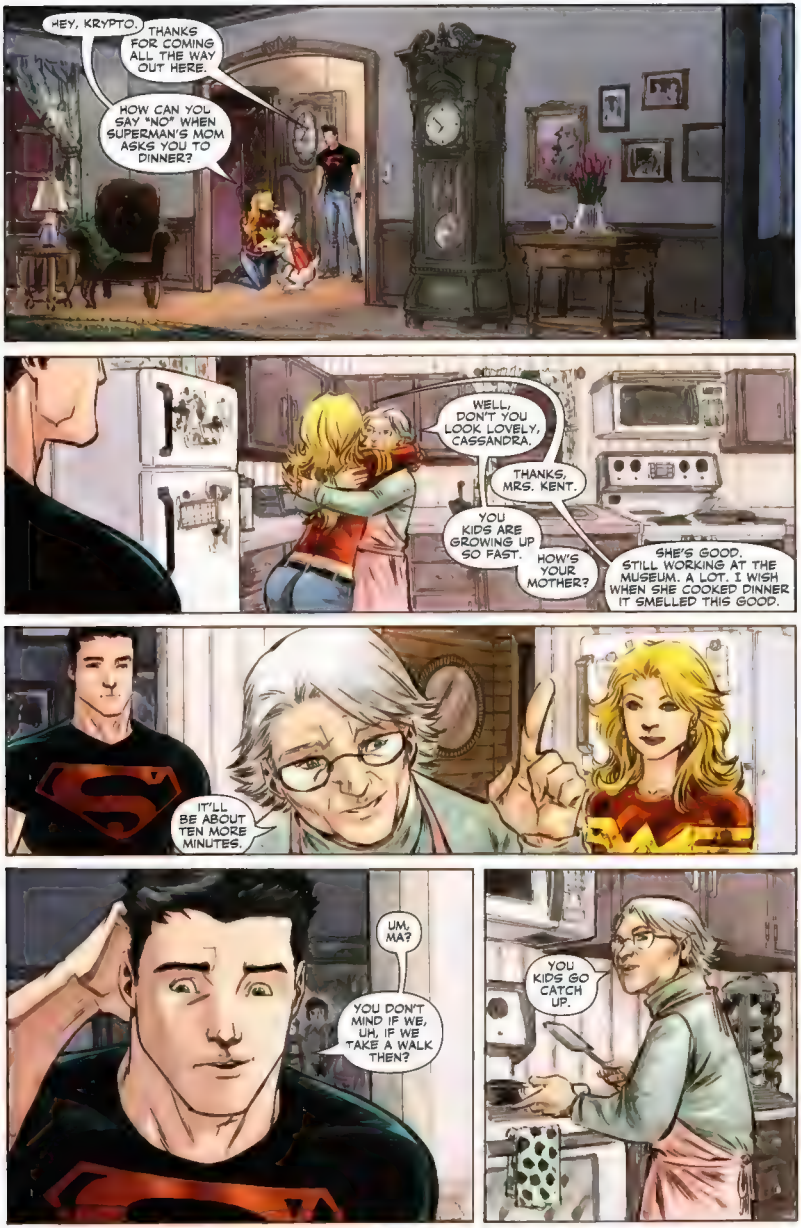
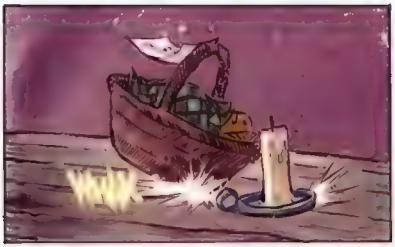
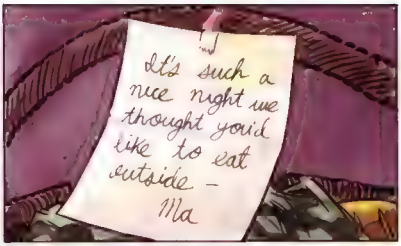
VIZ


HEY, KRYPTO.
THANKS FOR COMING ALL THE WAY OUT HERE.
HOW CAN YOU SAY "NO" WHEN SUPERMAN'S MOM ASKS YOU TO DINNER?
WELL, DON'T YOU LOOK LOVELY, CASSANDRA.
THANKS, MRS. KENT.
YOU KIDS ARE GROWING UP SO FAST.
HOW'S YOUR MOTHER?
SHE'S GOOD. STILL WORKING AT THE MUSEUM. A LOT. I WISH WHEN SHE COOKED DINNER IT SMELLED THIS GOOD.
IT'LL BE ABOUT TEN MORE MINUTES.
UM, MA?
YOU DON'T MIND IF WE, UH, IF WE TAKE A WALK THEN?
YOU KIDS GO CATCH UP.

I REALLY MISSED YOU.
I MISSED YOU TOO.
IT'S NOT THE SAME THOUGH, IS IT?
WHAT'S NOT THE SAME?

WELL, FOR ME IT WAS LIKE WAKING UP FROM A LONG NAP. ONE MINUTE I'M SLUGGING IT OUT WITH SUPERBOY-PRIME--
--THE NEXT I'M IN THE 31ST CENTURY KICKING HIS ASS AGAIN.
BUT FOR YOU, I WAS GONE FOR OVER A YEAR.
I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO GO THROUGH THAT.
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO BE SORRY FOR, CONNER.
BUT LAST YEAR--
CAN WE CHANGE THE SUBJECT?
I DON'T LIKE THINKING ABOUT LAST YEAR.

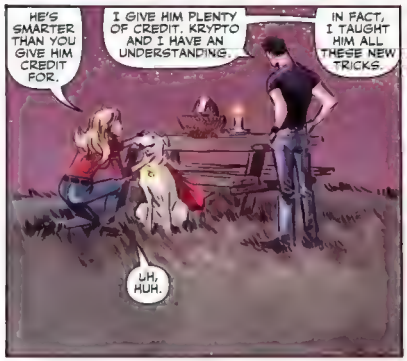

WWW

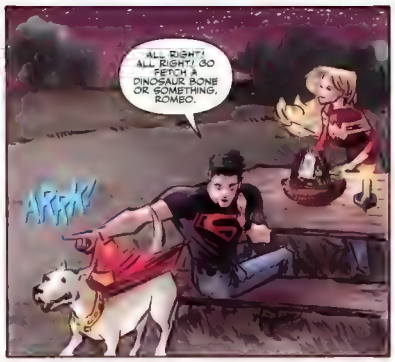

It's such a nice night we thought you'd like to eat outside -
Ma

KRYPTO--?
ARF!

VZZZZ
WRRRF

FWOOSH!


HE'S SMARTER THAN YOU GIVE HIM CREDIT FOR.
I GIVE HIM PLENTY OF CREDIT. KRYPTO AND I HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING.
IN FACT, I TAUGHT HIM ALL THESE NEW TRICKS.
UH, HUH.


ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT! GO FETCH A DINOSAUR BONE OR SOMETHING, ROMEO.
ARRR!

SO WHY COME BACK TO SMALLVILLE?
WHERE ELSE AM I GOING TO GO?
YOU'RE SUPERBOY. YOU CAN GO ANYWHERE YOU WANT.
I LIKE IT HERE, CASSIE. WITH MA.
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE, ISN'T THERE?
WHAT DOES LEX LUTHOR DO?
3) LIES TO FRIENDS AND FAMILY.
LIKE WHAT?
WHAT DID SUPERMAN DO?
4) TELLS THE TRUTH.
BART SAYS YOU WANT TO COME BACK TO THE TEEN TITANS.
YOU, BART AND TIM ARE THE BEST FRIENDS I'VE GOT, CASSIE.
YOU'RE GOING TO SMALLVILLE HIGH.
YOU. NEW KID. I'M SURE YOU'VE HEARD OF MY PAST INCIDENTS WITH MY LAB PARTNERS, BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT A) THE INJURIES WEREN'T PERMANENT, PHYSICALLY AT LEAST, AND B) THEY NEVER WOULD'VE HAPPENED IN THE FIRST PLACE IF THEY'D JUST *LISTEN* TO ME.
SO, IF YOU WOULD, I COULD USE A NEW LAB PARTNER.
TERRIFIC! THE NAME'S *SIMON.* SIMON VALENTINE.
UH, SURE...
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN AFFORD TO SLEEP THROUGH *ANOTHER* CLASS, LORI?
HOPE SO.
"YEAH. I'M GOING TO SMALLVILLE HIGH. SO...?"

YOU'RE ALSO HANGING OUT WITH KRYPTO?
UH, YEAH?
LIVING WITH THE KENTS?
YEAH. SO?

SO I DON'T WANT TO BE YOUR "LANA LANG."

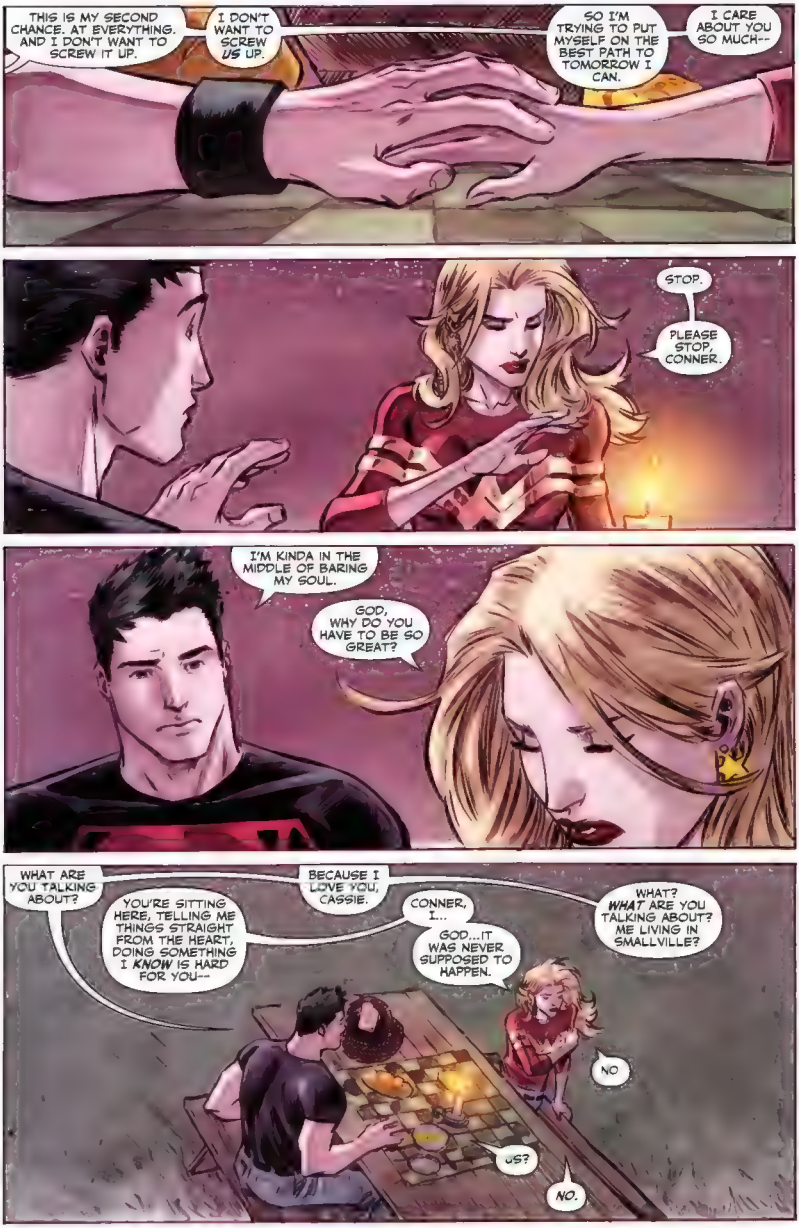
LAST TIME I CHECKED, YOU WEREN'T.
YOU'RE NOT CLARK KENT, BUT YOU'RE DOING EVERYTHING HE DID, AREN'T YOU?
YOU'RE TRYING TO LIVE YOUR LIFE JUST LIKE SUPERMAN DID.
...IT'S THAT OBVIOUS?
IT'S PRETTY EASY TO SPOT. EVEN BEAST BOY'S GOING TO FIGURE IT OUT.

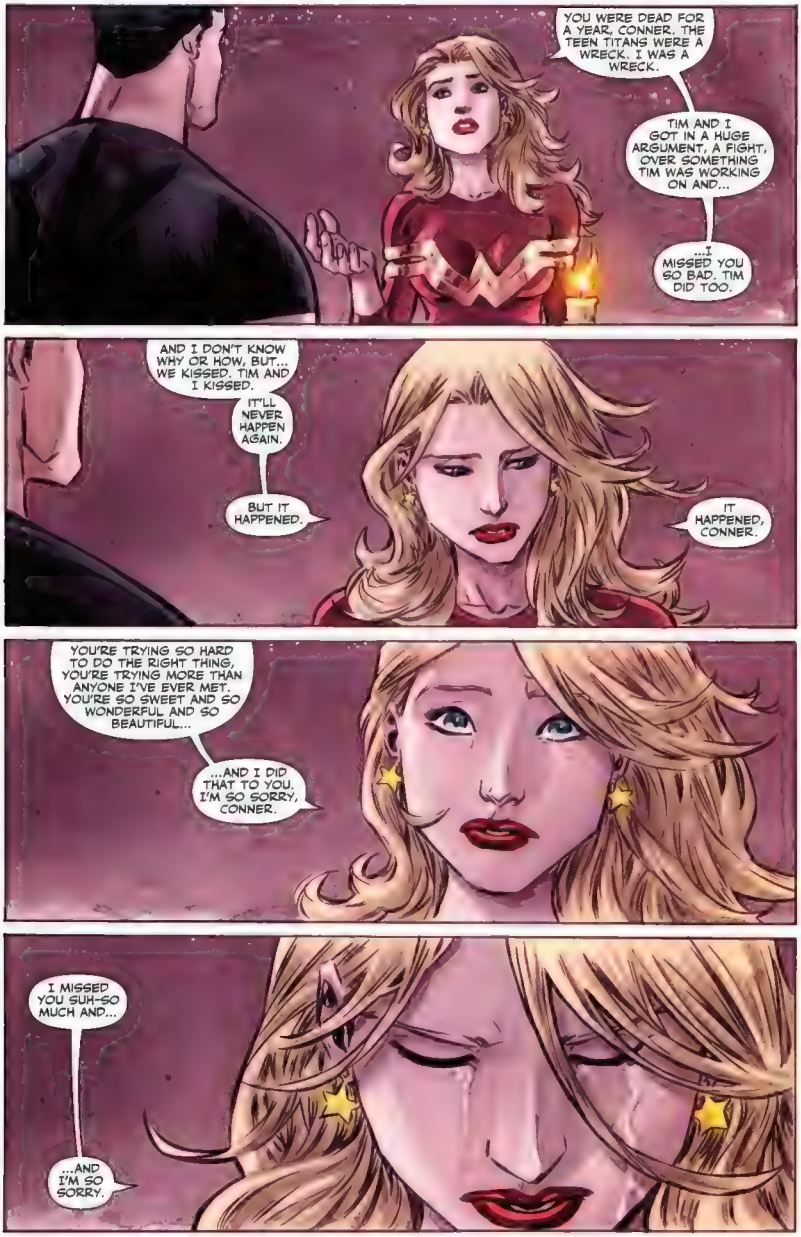
I MADE SO MANY MISTAKES BEFORE, CASS.
IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE FADE CUT AND THE EARRING, YOU DO REMEMBER THE BLACK WIG AND JEAN VEST I USED TO RUN AROUND IN.
THE YOUNG JUSTICE YEARBOOK UNFORTUNATELY IMMORTALIZED THOSE.
I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT THE FADE CUT.
AND THAT FADE CUT WAS COOL BACK THEN

YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT LEX LUTHOR.
I'M TALKING ABOUT LEX LUTHOR.

HE'S A PART OF ME AS MUCH AS SUPERMAN IS. AND THE LAST TIME I WAS WITH THE TEEN TITANS, I WAS LIKE SOME KIND OF MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE.
LUTHOR FLIPPED A SWITCH, I SHAVED MY HEAD, CUT AN "L" IN MY SHIRT AND THEN...
I ATTACKED MY FRIENDS. I BROKE TIM'S ARM.

I HURT YOU.


THIS IS MY SECOND CHANCE. AT EVERYTHING. AND I DON'T WANT TO SCREW IT UP.
I DON'T WANT TO SCREW US UP.
SO I'M TRYING TO PUT MYSELF ON THE BEST PATH TO TOMORROW I CAN.
I CARE ABOUT YOU SO MUCH--
STOP.
PLEASE STOP, CONNER.
I'M KINDA IN THE MIDDLE OF BARING MY SOUL.
GOD, WHY DO YOU HAVE TO BE SO GREAT?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU'RE SITTING HERE, TELLING ME THINGS STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART, DOING SOMETHING I KNOW IS HARD FOR YOU--
BECAUSE I LOVE YOU, CASSIE.
CONNER, I...
GOD...IT WAS NEVER SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN.
WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? ME LIVING IN SMALLVILLE?
NO
US?
NO.


YOU WERE DEAD FOR A YEAR, CONNER. THE TEEN TITANS WERE A WRECK. I WAS A WRECK.
TIM AND I GOT IN A HUGE ARGUMENT, A FIGHT, OVER SOMETHING TIM WAS WORKING ON AND...
...I MISSED YOU SO BAD. TIM DID TOO.
AND I DON'T KNOW WHY OR HOW, BUT... WE KISSED. TIM AND I KISSED.
IT'LL NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN.
BUT IT HAPPENED.
IT HAPPENED, CONNER.
YOU'RE TRYING SO HARD TO DO THE RIGHT THING, YOU'RE TRYING MORE THAN ANYONE I'VE EVER MET. YOU'RE SO SWEET AND SO WONDERFUL AND SO BEAUTIFUL...
...AND I DID THAT TO YOU. I'M SO SORRY, CONNER.
I MISSED YOU SUH-SO MUCH AND...
...AND I'M SO SORRY.

CASSIE.
I WAS UNDER THE GROUND. I WAS DEAD.
I AM SO HAPPY TO BE ALIVE.
I AM SO HAPPY TO BE HERE. WITH YOU.
I SEE IT IN YOUR EYES AND HEAR IT IN YOUR VOICE. I KNOW YOU LOVE ME.
I DO LOVE YOU.
AND I LOVE YOU TOO.
WE'RE HERE. TOGETHER.
THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS.
I DON'T WANT TO WASTE ANOTHER SECOND, OKAY?
NOT ANOTHER SECOND.
√4) TELLS THE TRUTH.

GOOD BOY.

CLOAKING REPAIRED. CLOAKING ON.
TERRESTRIAL LINK ESTABLISHED.
DAILY PLANET
HMM. LOOK AT ALL THESE HEADLINES I MISSED WHILE WE WERE "AWAY."

GOTHAM FEARS "BATMAN DEAD"!
"TEEN TITANS LOSES ANOTHER MEMBER!"
"JUSTICE LEAGUE ON THE VERGE OF COLLAPSE!"
NOTHING BUT GOOD NEWS--

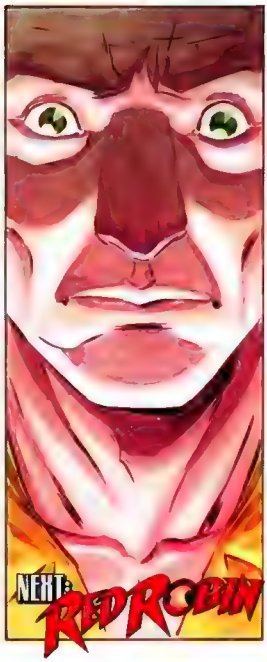
SUPERBOY RETURNS!

by LOIS LANE

When the world thought Superman had died stopping Doomsday from tearing through Metropolis, a young teenager appeared in our city and made claim to the name and legacy of Superman. Little was known about the origins of this "Superboy" save that he was cloned from the original Man of Steel by the governmental genetic-engineering agency Cadmus Labs. After Superman's miraculous return, Superboy briefly made his home in Honolulu before returning to the mainland and becoming a member of the Teen Titans. Over a year ago, the Superman, he sacrificed his life battling a great evil that threatened to destroy our world. The world mourned, as did Superman, who once told me it felt like he had lost a son. It was

photograph by JIMMY OLSEN

evident all of Metropolis felt the same way. But like Superman, Superboy returned. The exact nature of his resurrection remains a mystery to the public, but Superman has confirmed it is indeed the original Boy of Steel who helped



THE 31ST CENTURY.
WE HAVE TO TELL GARTH, ROKK.
WHAT'S HE GOING TO THINK?
I KNOW WHAT HE'S GOING TO THINK.
AND YOU ALREADY DO TOO.
COSMIC BOY · ROKK KRINN
HOMEWORLD BRAAL
ABILITIES MAGNETISM MANIPULATION
SATURN GIRL · IMRA ARDEEN-RANZZ
HOMEWORLD TITAN
ABILITIES TELEPATHY
YEAH. HE DOESN'T EXACTLY KEEP IT BOTTLED UP THESE DAYS.
IT'S HARD TO KEEP LIGHTNING IN A BOTTLE.
HIS SISTER DOES IT.
IT LOOKS LIKE SHE DOES, BUT BELIEVE ME, ROKK--
--LIGHTNING LASS IS MORE LIKE LIGHTNING LAD THAN EITHER OF THEM WILL EVER ADMIT. THEY ARE TWINS.
EVERYONE ON WINATH HAS A TWIN.
NOT EVERYONE.
...
WE HAVE TO TELL HIM.

LONG LIVE THE LEGION

PART TWO
LIGHTNING LAD

GEOFF JOHNS and MICHAEL SHOEMAKER: WRITERS
CLAYTON HENRY: ARTIST
BRIAN REBER: COLORIST
SAL CIPRIANO: LETTERER
SEAN RYAN: ASSOCIATE EDITOR
ELISABETH V. GEHRLEIN: EDITOR

I APOLOGIZED FOR SHORTING OUT THE PRESIDENT'S COM-LINK.
IT WAS HIS STATE OF THE EARTH ADDRESS.
STATE OF THE EARTH? HERE'S THE STATE OF THE EARTH: IT'S SWARMING WITH ANTI-ALIEN SENTIMENT AND WE'VE GOT A PRESIDENT WHO'S A FREAKING HUMAN SUPREMACIST.
YOU HAVE READ THE LEGION CODE, RIGHT? SUPERMAN SAID, "DIPLOMACY IS THE KEY TO PEACE."
I SENT HIM FLOWERS TO APOLOGIZE.
YOU'VE NEVER SENT ANYONE FLOWERS.
IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS.
YOU DIDN'T THINK ABOUT IT.
GARTH?
WHAT?
WHAT ELSE DO YOU WANT FROM ME, ROKK?
I DON'T WANT ANYTHING.
YOUR BROTHER DOES.
MEKT?
LIGHTNING LORD.
HE'S OFFERING A TRADE: THE LOCATIONS OF THE LEGION OF SUPER-VILLAINS' SAFEHOUSES IN EXCHANGE FOR ONE THING--
--A MEETING WITH YOU

NEW TAKRON-GALTOS PRISON PLANET.
"JUST LET ME IN. I HEAR THE FOOD'S FIVE-STAR!"
LEGIONNAIRES NO LONGER HAVE FULL CLEARANCE, RANZZ.
AW, COME ON. THEY ASKED ME TO COME HERE.
WHO DID?
I DON'T KNOW. YOU GUYS, THE WARDEN, THE LEGION, EVERYONE.
CAPTAIN DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT IT TO US.

GREAT. I TRIED. CAN YOU MAKE SURE THAT'S IN YOUR REPORT?
HEY, LIGHTNING BOY.
YOU HERE TO SEE YOUR BROTHER? LET ME GUESS: CONJUGAL VISIT?
STORM BOY- MYKE EMPIRUZ HOMEWORLD EARTH ABILITIES ARTIFICIAL WEATHER CONTROL
I CAN'T BEND METAL BARS--
KZZT
KZZT

--CAN YOU?
ZRRK!
YOU DIDN'T EVEN MAKE THE SUBS, STORM BOY.
YOU'RE A REJECT, INSIDE AND OUT.
AND YOU'RE NO BETTER THAN YOUR BROTHER OR ANY OTHER WINATHIAN FOR THAT MATTER.
LONG LIVE HUMANS.
HEY, LEGIONNAIRE. WARDEN CALLED.
YOU JUST GOT CLEARANCE.
YIPEE.

HELLO, GARTH.
HEY, MEKT.

I'M HERE. WHAT THE HELL DO YOU WANT?
I WANT YOUR HELP.
HELP? SHOULD I HELP YOU KILL ME AND ALL MY FRIENDS, BECAUSE THE LAST TIME I SAW YOU THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE TRYING TO DO.
AGAIN.
THE UNITED PLANETS IS GOING TO TEAR APART THIS UNIVERSE. IT'S ALREADY STARTED, AND EVEN YOUR LEGION HAS SUFFERED FOR IT.
YOU AND "YOUR FRIENDS" ARE ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE WAR.
WHAT WAR? THE WAR YOU STARTED BETWEEN YOU AND ME? THE WAR YOU'VE BEEN FIGHTING SINCE THE THREE OF US WERE TACKED BY LIGHTNING BEASTS?
THE THREE OF US. THAT WAS THE ONLY TIME I FELT LIKE THERE WERE THREE OF US. EVERY OTHER TIME, IT WAS YOU AND AYLA.
AND THEN ME.
IT'S ALWAYS EASY FOR YOU. YOU HAD AYLA. YOU HAD A TWIN.
I HAD NO ONE.

I NEVER WANTED TO BE ALONE. I HATED BEING ALONE.
I HATED YOU AND AYLA FOR HAVING EACH OTHER.
WHAT? YOU THINK WE'RE OUT THERE HOLDING HANDS AND JUMPING ROPE? BETWEEN THE LEGION AND TIMBER WOLF, I BARELY SEE AYLA ANYMORE.
YOU THINK WE HAVE A GREAT RELATIONSHIP?
IT LOOKS GREAT FROM HERE.
OH, NOW I GET IT. THAT'S WHY YOU JOINED A PSYCHOTIC GROUP OF SUPER-VILLAINS--
--BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T HAVE A TWIN? ARE YOU FREAKING KIDDING ME?
I TRIED TO BE A BROTHER TO YOU, BUT YOU NEVER LOOKED AT ME AS AN EQUAL.
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT
THEN WHY DID YOU WANT TO TALK TO ME?

I REMEMBER THE DAY WHEN MOM AND DAD EXPLAINED TO ME THAT I WAS BORN ALONE.
THAT I WAS NOT LIKE EVERYONE ELSE ON THE ENTIRE PLANET.
THEY LIED.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THEY *LIED*, GARTH.
MOM AND DAD NEVER LIED TO US ABOUT ANYTHING, MEKT.
THEY DID.
I *DO* HAVE A TWIN.
AND I WANT YOU TO FIND MY TWIN FOR ME.

DAMMIT.
SET COURSE FOR WINATH.

NEXT MONTH: SUN BOY AND POLAR BOY!

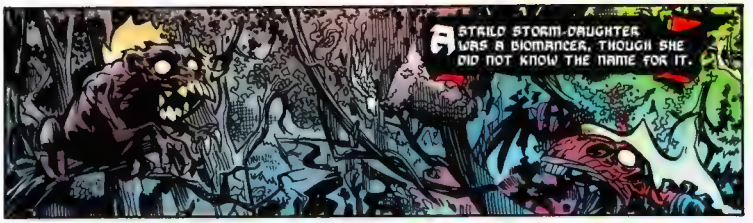
A Preview of R.E.B.E.L.S. Annual #1: STARRO THE CONQUEROR!

FOR YEARS, GIANT STAR-SHAPED CREATURES HAVE PROWLED YOUR GALAXY, ENSLAVING WORLDS IN THE NAME OF STARRO THE CONQUEROR. AT LEAST THREE TIMES, THE JUSTICE LEAGUE HAS UNITED TO REPEL SUCH A CONQUEST OF EARTH.
NOW IT STANDS REVEALED THAT THESE "MOTHERSTARS" HAVE ALWAYS ANSWERED TO A HIGHER POWER--A COSMIC WARLORD WHO LEADS A MIGHTY HORDE, THE ACCUMULATED MILITARY MIGHT OF NINE GALAXIES. ARRIVING IN THE LAWLESS VEGA SECTOR, MY MASTER HAS COME TO CRUSH THE MILKY WAY BENEATH HIS ARMORED HEEL...

THE STORM-DAUGHTER STOOD HER GROUND AGAINST MY MASTER-- UNTIL HE SHATTERED IT BENEATH HER.
DOOM
YOU SHALL HAVE TO FIGHT HARDER!
HALF MEASURES WON'T DO!
THAT'S IT!
FAP
ANH!

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS? }NFF: WE'VE DONE NOTHING TO YOU!
YOU CANNOT REASON WITH ME. YOU CANNOT BARGAIN WITH ME
ONLY TWO PATHS LIE OPEN TO YOU
SURRENDER, AND YOUR PEOPLE WILL LIVE--
--AS SLAVES.
FIGHT ME, AND I WILL FORCE YOU TO MAKE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE.
NOW CHOOSE!

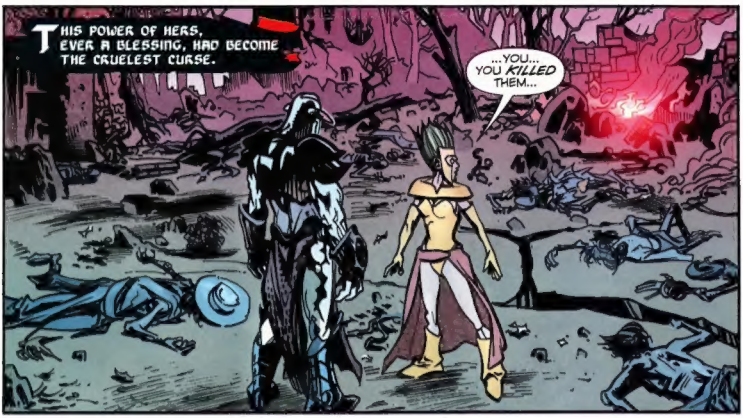
THE CALM IN THE STORM-DAUGHTER'S EYE GAVE WAY TO NAKED RAGE.
ALAS, VIOLENCE IS A THING VERY MUCH LIKE FIRE.
KZAKT
KTHOOM
CONTROLLED, IT IS AN EFFECTIVE TOOL.
BUT IN THE HANDS OF A NOVICE, BEREFT OF TEMPERANCE, DESPERATELY LASHING OUT...
...THE FLAME SPREADS UNCHECKED, CONSUMING ALL IN ITS PATH.


A STRILD STORM-DAUGHTER WAS A BIOMANCER, THOUGH SHE DID NOT KNOW THE NAME FOR IT.

KRAKT
KRAKA
THOOM
ZZAKT
SHE DREW UPON THE COLLECTIVE LIFE FORCE OF HER ENTIRE WORLD. IT WAS THE WELLSPRING OF HER POWER.
FOR EVERY SEED SHE CAUSED TO SPROUT, SOMEWHERE ELSE A BLOSSOM WITHERED.

AND ON THAT DAY, SHE CALLED UPON THE LIFE FORCE OF VARIDIAN AS NEVER BEFORE...

...ONLY TO FIND THAT A WELLSPRING CAN RUN DRY.


THIS POWER OF HERS, EVER A BLESSING, HAD BECOME THE CRUELEST CURSE.
...YOU... YOU KILLED THEM...

NO, STORM-DAUGHTER. YOU DID.
THEY SHOULD BE ALIVE--BLISSFUL SUBJECTS OF STARRO.

BUT WHAT YOU SEE IN ME OFFENDS YOU.
IT WAS YOUR RIGHTEOUS INDIGNATION THAT SEALED YOUR PEOPLE'S FATE.
...NO... YOU'RE WRONG...

THERE IS NO "WRONG."
THERE IS NO "RIGHT."
COME FIND ME ONCE YOU UNDERSTAND THIS.
WRITER TONY BEDARD
PENCILS KARL MOLINE
INKS MARK PENNINGTON
COLORS JOSE VILLARRUBIA
LETTERS TRAVIS LANHAM
ASST. EDITOR REX OGLE
EDITOR BRIAN CUNNINGHAM
For more, read the complete STARRO when it hits stores October 7!

FUNNY THING, SHE DOESN'T LOOK A DAY OVER THIRTY.

If you're wondering who I'm talking about, well, wonder no more. It's Wonder Woman, the First Lady of DC Comics. And for the last few months I have been engaged in a rather interesting discussion about this great character and the ways to make sure she gets all the respect she deserves. In case you didn't know, there is a group of Wonder Woman fans who feel that her ongoing series needs the numbering that would be reflective of her time and stature in the industry. After all, both Superman and Batman are closing in on issue 700, and Wonder Woman, being an integral part of our trinity, should be right up there with them.

Not a bad argument. These fans felt so strongly about this, they even started a mail-in postcard campaign to plead their case. They did the math, adding the numbering of all of Wonder Woman's ongoing series, and determined that issue 45 of the current run will be her 600th issue.

As a counterpoint, I have stated that I believe the current numbering (almost 40 now) is more inviting to the casual fan who might want to come in and sample a series without feeling like the story is weighed down by over 65 years of history.

Not a bad argument either, I think. I mean, so much attention lately has been placed on landmark issues and anniversary books, and they seem to be popping up all over the place. I guess it's to draw attention to how important they are. As for me, I say two things are needed to make a book important: great characters and great creators. With Wonder Woman, we got both. We know we have a great character, and with the incredible team of **Gail Simone** and **Aaron Lopresti**, I know we have the great creators as well.

Still... it is kinda fun to celebrate anniversaries.

So, for all you Wonder Woman fans out there, here's the deal: 600 postcards for a 600th issue. (And please, no multiple mailings; they will be counted as one.)

It's that simple. If the demand and desire is there, then speak out, and I promise you will be heard. I think we all agree on one thing: Wonder Woman is the greatest female character there is, and she deserves nothing less.

To be continued.

DD

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